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Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

Summary
of the Meeting of the Inter-ministerial Working Group
on Sustainable Development and Green Economy
National Implementation Committee of EU4Environment project

12 February 2021 (10.00-12.30)
on-line, Zoom platform

Total present at the meeting - 50 participants, members of the Working Group/National Implementation Committee and invited persons (EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, Implementing Partners – OECD, UNEP, UNECE, UNIDO, the World Bank).

The meeting was opened and chaired by Mrs. Lilia PALII, General Secretary, Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure, NFP for EU4Environment from MEI side, Co-chair of the Working Group/NIC. Moderation of the meeting - by Mr. Andrei Isac, National Action Coordinator, EU4Environment in Moldova.

Secretaries of the WG/meeting – EU4Environment Technical NFPs: Ms. Maria Nagornii, Head of Division on Policies for Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assessment, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment and Ms. Tatiana Pirgari, Senior Consultant, Economic Policies and Business Environment Department, Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure.

Participants received in advance all documents and a copy of the Presentation (Eng/Rom) in electronic format and links to the discussion documents, made during the meeting. The meeting took place in Green meeting/paper less and on-line format.

The main objectives of the WG/NIC meeting:

- Presenting the status of the implementation of EU4Environment in Moldova in 2020, including adjustments that have had to be made due to the global pandemic and other political developments;
- Presentation of detailed workplans plans for the first 6 months of 2021 and general activity plans till the end of 2021 (with contribution/presentation from Implementing Partners) including also planned EU4Environment regional events;

- Presentation of the preparations for the EU Green Week in June 2021, as well as other related environmental events in 2021 (both at national and regional levels);
- Ensure synergies with other international projects/programmes under implementation in Moldova and region;
- Informing EU4Environment implementing partners about the possibilities and needs regarding the implementation of the EU4Environment programme in Moldova (and at the regional level, as appropriate);
- Other discussion items.

Detailed final agenda of the meeting – annex 1.

Opening and works of the event

In the opening statement, Mrs. Lilia PALII, General Secretary, Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure, co-chair of the Inter-ministerial Working Group/NIC, EU4Environment NFP from MEI side, congratulated the WG members on the occasion of 5 years of activity of the WG, mentioning that along time the WG demonstrated efficiency and capacity for the promotion of the green economy principles in the national policy documents and of the coordination of EU4Environment project.

The General Secretary of MEI indicated that in the actual conditions, when the relaunching of the economy it is a national objective, **the integration of environmental requirements could bring an added value in all economic sectors.** Greening of the production processes of the services could contribute to the efficient use of resources, application of new technologies, promotion of exports, creation of new green jobs and reduce the impact on the environment.

“The implementation of the actions of the EU4Environment come to **supplement the efforts of the Government towards mainstreaming environment in economic sectors,** efficient use of resources and modernization of the production processes. New priorities, linked with the **promotion of the objectives of the European Green Deal,** find their way within the planned activities within EU4Environment for the year 2021. Thus, we are looking forward for a **continuous collaboration with the European Commission and Implementing Partners** for the further integration of these provisions in the strategies and actions in all social-economic development domains” - underlined Mrs. Lilia PALII in her opening statement.

In his opening message, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, **Mr. Dorin ANDROS,** State secretary for environment protection, EU4Environment NFP from MARDE side, underlined, that “in this period took place numerous activities and events oriented towards the

promotion of the values of economic development in harmony with environment, **integration of green economy principles in all sectors**, resource efficiency and circular economy, which need to become a reality for achieving environmental protection and climate change adaptation priorities. The recently conducted meetings on eco-innovation, eco-labelling, clean public transport, International Conference of SMEs at EaP level and the **National high-level Round Table “Green Economy – Made in Moldova: from Green Economy to the European Green Deal”** – highlighted the clear message in support of the green transition and promotion of green economy for the implementation of the objectives of the **European Green Deal**’.

Was warmly welcomed the participation at this WG/NIC meeting of the representatives **of the World Bank** responsible for the implementation of the **Results 4 of EU4Environment on Ecosystem services**.

Mr. Gintautas BARANAUSKAS, Deputy Head of Operations, the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova indicated that “the European Union has an **ambitious agenda on environment, climate and circular economy**. The EU has adopted some of the most advanced policies and standards in these areas. The European Union main objective is to ensure the wellbeing of citizens, protect and enhance natural capital, and make our economy more competitive. This is even more important today in the era of Covid-19 pandemic. **The green economic recovery seems a huge opportunity**”.

Mr. Gintautas BARANAUSKAS noticed, that the **EU4Environment** is helping the Republic of Moldova to speed up progress in the area of green economy that still needs more attention and capacity. There are multiple examples, including from Moldova, that “**green**” **initiatives make economic sense** and can generate business opportunities, result in high value jobs and investment.

According to the agenda, Mr. Andrei Isac, National action coordinator, EU4Environment, introduced and offered the floor for the presentations to the representatives of Implementing Partners (OECD, UNEP, UNECE, UNIDO and the World Bank). Were presented short reports for 2020 and the detailed plans for the implementation of the EU4Environment in the first 6 month 2021 and general plans for 2021, developed by the Implementing Partners for each Result/sub-component, separately: Result 1: Greener Decision Making; Result 2: Circular economy and New Growth Opportunities; Result 3: An Environmental level Playing Field; Result 4: Ecosystem services; Result 5: Knowledge Sharing and Coordination. After the presenting of the information on all Results was offered the possibility for a question and answers session and the WG/NIC members were invited to present their opinion or comments on the implemented/planned actions. Copy of the presentation (Eng) was circulated to all participants (attached – annex 2).

During the meeting, according to the Agenda, was presented the information about the organisation and development of the:

- **EU Green Week 2021 in Moldova** (31 May – 04 June 2021): National environmental protection communication and information campaign on EU Green Week 2021 with the key topics: **Zero Pollution and EU Green Deal for Moldova**;
- **World Environment Day 2021 – 5 June 2021**;
- **Draft Decree of the President of the Republic of Moldova** on the EU Green Week 2021, WED 2021 and promotion of the EU Green Deal.

Main results presented by Implementing Partners (IPs) (OECD, UNEP, UNECE, UNIDO and the World Bank (for the period of 2020 and – till 12 February 2021):

- Continued inter-ministerial dialogue on Green Economy and overall oversight of EU4Environment in Moldova: took place 3 meetings of the Inter-ministerial Working Group on the promotion of sustainable development and green economy/National Implementation Committee for EU4Environment in Moldova; reports of IPs and plans examined and coordinated (activity 1.1.3)(UNEP sub-component);
- Signed the Memorandum between MARDE and the Academy of Public Administration to host, promote and deliver an introductory Green Economy (GE) course (on 05 June 2020), Launched the online course on GE (Rom) and started the tailored in-depth training for nominated individuals from various government agencies on GE policy (14 persons, representing MEI, MARDE, ODIMM, APP) (activity 1.1.1) (December 2020 – March 2021) (UNEP);
- Carried out the Legislative assistance for the review of EIA and SEA legislation (completed) and development of two Methodologies/Guidelines on (1) Quality Control of SEA Documentation, (2) Quality Control of transboundary EIA Documentation (ongoing) (activity 1.3.1 and 1.3.2) (UNECE);
- RM's delegation (7 participants) shared experience with the other EaP countries and received training at Subregional Workshop on the Application of SEA and Transboundary EIA organized by UNECE, 26-27 October 2020;
- Video on the Espoo Convention (transboundary EIA) in English developed and launched at the *Meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention/MOP to the SEA Protocol* (8-11 December 2020);
- Completed consultations with NFPs and other stakeholders on identification of the National Implementing Partner for the RECP (July-August 2020), developed and coordinated the ToR and launching of the tender (activities 2.1 (2.1.1 – 2.1.6); National Coordinator for the RECP component to be contracted by end of February 2021; ToR for local expert for the Eco-Industrial Parks and Free Economic Zones developed, coordinated, call to

be opened by end of February 2021; Identified synergies with the GREEN SMEs Country Program led by ODIMM (in synergy with OECD and UNEP activities, April-June 2020, November-December 2020, January 2021) (UNIDO);

- Presentation of OECD, UNEP and UNIDO activities and work plan related to SMEs at the Conference on Launching of the Program on Greening SMEs, organized by ODIMM (03 June 2020) and identification of synergies (activities 2.1.2, 2.1.5, 2.6, 3.1.2); Presentation of outcomes of the greening SMEs and EU4Environment contribution at the National SMEs Conference (11 December 2020, OECD, UNEP);
- Consultation with national partners on Sustainable Public Procurement and eco-labelling (contracting international experts and local partners, work in progress) (activities under result 2.3); Review of SPP procedures ongoing (UNEP);
- Assessment of eco-labelling conducted, developed the Roadmap on eco-labelling for Moldova, started drafting of the Regulation on eco-labelling to be presented for approval to the Government by end of 2021 (EcoContact, UNEP);
- Completed the consultations of UNEP with Organization for the Small and Medium Enterprise Sector Development (ODIMM) to assist with eco-innovation promotion and training (activity 2.6.1 and 2.6.2); First national workshop on eco-innovations for SMEs conducted (04.02.2021), work in progress (UNEP);
- Initiated and coordinated the support for the use of strategic approaches on waste management – started the development of the Program on waste management (activity 2.4) with the support from UNEP with the integration of circular economy provisions and mainstreaming climate change adaptation requirements (synergy with EU4Climate); The draft Program on waste management to be presented to the Government for approval by end 2021 (UNEP);
- Assistance with developing a self-assessment tool for SMEs and assistance with the development of metrics for measuring SME greening nationally (activity 3.1.2); self-assessment tool is in operation (online, free of charge) since May 2020 on ODIMM web site, more than 100 SMEs selected for the Program on Greening SMEs, using this tool (OECD);
- Launched the new project on strengthening public expenditure programmes, a follow up to the previous work on the Clean Public Transport (CPT) Programme (activity 3.3.1); Kick-off meeting on 05 of February 2021 focused on green investment and clean public transport (OECD);
- Ongoing review and reforming the current set-up of the National Ecological Fund, selected the local expert for the development of the NEF Operational Manual and contribution to the drafting of the new Regulation on the National Ecological Fund (activity 3.3.2); draft Operational Manual to be presented in March 2021 (OECD);

- Conducted the Estimation of fossil-fuel subsidies for 2016-2019 for the OECD-IEA Fossil-fuel subsidies database (July – December 2020) (OECD);
- Launched the work on green bonds (project call for tender completed in December 2020) (OECD);
- Launched the preparatory work on strengthening the administrative capacity for environmental management (activity 3.4); Draft country institutional capacity assessment to be completed (by March 2021) (OECD); Capacities of the MARDE and Environmental Agency to be strengthened in 2021;
- Signed the agreement between the WB and EC for the Result 4 of EU4Environment to improve resilience through the preservation of ecosystem services, with a focus on forests and protected areas and Countries' natural capital better conserved and more resilient livelihoods ensured; Inception phase – January-June 2021: national priorities and actions to be selected and coordinated;
- Overview of available Green Growth Indicators (GGIs) in the OECD database for the Republic of Moldova and initial internal discussions on its extension and update (activity 5.3); GGIs report of 2017 to be updated by end 2021, new indicators included, GGIs placed on the NBS site (OECD);
- EaP country virtual consultations: EC – IPs - Republic of Moldova – took place on 29 May 2020 (activity 5.2); Summary coordinated;
- Awareness raising campaigns: National High-Level Round table “Green Economy. Made in Moldova” (5th edition on 31.01.2020 and 6th edition on 29.01.2021 (regional and high-level dimension ensured); preparations and conducting the national campaign on EU Green Week 2020 with high-level statements (19-23.10.2020) and plans for EU Green Week 2021 (31.04-04.06.2021) and WED2021 (05.06.2021);
- Representative of the key governmental authorities (MARDE, MEI, MF, ODIMM and NGOs) were involved in all regional events within EU4Environment, including the EU4Environment Regional Assembly (22 September 2020);
- Promotion of EU4Environment on project and national web sites, Monthly Newsletter, videos and other communication materials (activities 1.4 and 5.1); Visuals for EU4Environment placed on the FB page of EUD and Impreuna Mai Puternici (EU Green Week 2020 and project activities); EU4Environment in Moldova implementation progress regularly reflected in the Newsletter of the EU-RM cooperation of the EUD:
 - Promotion of EU4Environment on national web sites: MEI (Green Economy/EU4Environment) and MARDE (EU4Environment);
 - EU4Environment Web site and FB: <http://www.eu4environment.org>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/EU4Environment-100539842031096>
 - [Newsletter](#), reaching subscribers* and disseminated to 1000 persons within networks;

- Use of social media (YouTube, Flickr, EU4Environment Facebook page and for Moldova, existing Twitter channels);
- Privesc.eu and the established support and placement of news and events on the FB of EUD and ImpreunaMaiPutemici in Moldova;
- More than 50 000 people reached on 29 January 2021 – High Level Round table: Green Economy – Made in Moldova.
- More than 260 posts on EU4Environment in Moldova FB page, with more than 16 000 people reached in 2020;
- <http://www.eu4environment.org>
- <https://www.facebook.com/EU4Environment-100539842031096>
- <https://www.facebook.com/EU4EnvironmentMoldova/>
- <http://mec.gov.md/ro/content/economia-verde>
- <http://madrm.gov.md/ro/node/2700>
- Statements of H.E. Mr. Peter Michalko, Head of EUD on the occasion of the EU Green Week 2020 and EU Green Deal:
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jj26Ejs-89s&t=10s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hmpniT4sTA>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=an4xdWi10BM>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ltt1MMm-vU
- https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/moldova/87215/message-he-peter-michalko-ambassador-european-union-republic-moldova-occasion-launch-eu-green_en
- https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/moldova/87295/node/87295_ro
- https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/moldova/87296/node/87296_ru

More details about the results for 2020, detailed plans for 2021 and general plans for 2021 – in the common IPs presentation (annex 2).

Major conclusions and decisions of the meeting:

- The meeting of the WG/NIC encouraged all stakeholders who will take part in EU4Environment to focus on the implementation of measures that will **maximally serve the interests of each and every citizen** of the Republic of Moldova and use EU support in order to **bring tangible results and environmental wealth for all**;
- The WG/NIC marked the year 2020 as a year of practical implementation of the EU4Environment activities in Moldova, which started in September 2019 and 5 years of activity of the Inter-ministerial Working Group on the promotion of sustainable development and green economy (established in June 2015 within EaP GREEN);
- The Working Group/NIC took note and approved the information on the implementation of the EU4Environment project in Moldova for the period of January-December 2020, as presented by Implementing Partners;
- The Working Group/NIC approved the plans of actions within the sub-components of EU4Environment planned for January – June 2021, developed by the Implementing Partners and implementing institutions and

the general plans by the end of 2021. The beneficiary institutions will further coordinate with Partners the practical implementation actions for each specific activity;

- Was welcomed the start of implementation of Result 4, coordinated by the World Bank and will be provided full support for an efficient inception period for this project component to take place in January – June 2021;
- The WG/NIC took note of the information, provided by OECD, that EU4Environment will take on board a follow-up of the SEIS II and EUWI+, activities to be integrated in the second part of 2021;
- The WG/NIC appreciated the support provided by OECD for the development of the Operational Manual for the National Ecological Fund and MARDE is looking forward for programme-based approach;
- The WG took note of the process of evaluation of implementation of the Program on the promotion of green economy in Moldova for 2018-2020 and of the plans for the update and adjustment of the Action Plan of the Program for 2022-2024, taking into consideration the provisions of the European Green Deal and circular economy, review the implemented actions or existing gaps and reschedule or update them, accordingly, etc. **Support from EU4Environment is requested for the conduction of the final evaluation of the implementation of the Program and its Action Plan for 2018-2020.** The provisions and actions from the Clean Public Transport Programme will be integrated in the transport chapter of the updated Program on GE. The investment needs assessment (including promotion of eco-innovations for SMEs, eco-labelling system, etc) will be conducted, accordingly, to be integrated in the cost estimates of the Program on GE. Coordination/consultation with UNEP and OECD to be organized on this issue in March 2021;
- WG took note and welcomed the recent progress on the RECP and EIP sub-component and is looking forward for its practical start after the selection of local coordinator and experts, under coordination of MEI, ODIMM and MARDE for an institutional capacity strengthening and sustainability of this project activities in the future;
- On activity on **energy subsidies and green bonds** – detailed information on the achieved outcomes in 2020 and plans for 2021 to be provided by OECD to MEI and MADRM in March 2021;
- For the implementation of the Activity 3.2.2 it is indicated the need to start the coordination of the possible support from OECD on the transposition of the Directive 2004/35/EC on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage, as included in the country initial proposal, Summary of the country consultations in May 2020 and minutes of the previous WG/NIC meeting;
- The WG/NIC took note on the information provided concerning the started environmental institutional capacity strengthening project and is looking forward for practical steps in this project sub-component, support for Environmental Agency and Inspection for Environmental Protection;

- Activity 3.1.2 on the elaboration and application of General Binding Rules (for a specific sector) it is highlighted as a priority for the first part of 2021; Consultation with OECD to be organized on this issue in March 2021;
- The WG/NIC took note on the information on the performance review of the progress of implementation of the Green Economy with the application of the Green Growth Indicators and is looking forward for the updated GGIs Report for Moldova by the end of 2021 (update of 2017 report based on 2020 data);
- The WG/NIC took note of the visibility and communication project sub-component results in 2020 and specific progress in Moldova in this area and encouraged to promote and support all related information to be placed in social media, pages of the partners and beneficiaries etc;
- The WG took note of the information concerning the European Green Week 2021 – Zero Pollution ambition – preparation for the national campaign related to the EU Green Week and agreed to carry out a coordinated preparatory process. Key topics of the EU Green Week 2021 in Moldova will be – Zero Pollution and EU Green Deal for Moldova;
- Was agreed on the process of organisation of the next WG/NIC meeting, depending on the dates of the next EU4Environment Regional Assembly meeting, 2-3 weeks prior to the RA, as per the best example of similar approach in 2020;
- The Summary of the meeting after coordination will be circulated to all WG/NIC members, Implementing Partners and EC (DG NEAR and DG Environment);
- The Co-chairs expressed their gratitude for the financial support, offered by EU for EU4Environment in Moldova, to EC for efficient coordination and methodological support and to Implementing Partners for efficient collaboration for the implementation of the planned actions.

**General Secretary
Co-Chair of the WG/NIC**

Lilia PALII

Secretaries of the WG/NIC

Ms. Maria Nagornîi, Head of
Division on Policies for Pollution
Prevention and Environmental
Assessment, Ministry of Agriculture,
Regional Development and
Environment

Ms. Tatiana Pirgari, Senior
Consultant, Economic Policies and

Business Environment Department,
Ministry of Economy and
Infrastructure.

Annexes to the Summary:

- Agenda of the meeting (Rom/Eng);
- Copy of discussion documents (Word);
- Presentations from the meeting (original PP, Rom/Eng);
- Copy of the discussion documents, indicated in PPs (Word, dpf).

Information about the event was placed on the web sites:

Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure:

<https://mei.gov.md/ro/content/actiunile-realizate-domeniul-dezvoltarii-durabile-si-economiei-verzi-doua-jumatate-anului>

<https://www.facebook.com/MinisterulEconomiei>

Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment:

<https://www.madrm.gov.md/ro/content/3051>

<https://www.facebook.com/minister.agricultura.dezvoltare.regionala.meniu/>

EU4Environment:

<https://www.eu4environment.org/events/meeting-of-the-inter-ministerial-working-group-on-the-promotion-of-sustainable-development-and-green-economy/>

<https://www.facebook.com/EU4Environment-100539842031096>

EU4Environment in Moldova page:

<https://www.facebook.com/EU4EnvironmentMoldova/>